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example: *Kalmia glauca* does not now occur in the Cayuga Lake basin, but it occurs in many of the moors to the east and north, even appearing in the adjoining county, i. e., Cortland.

THE ZONES OF A SWAMP.

The character of the vegetation enables us to divide a complete swamp into three natural zones:

First, the *lake* in the center, which, although not a belt at all, may, for convenience sake, be so designated.

Second, the *moor* comprising the open area surrounding the lake and generally grown over with sphagnum. There are no shrubs or trees here capable of casting extensive shade.

Third, the *wooded belt* comprising the remainder of the swamp. It varies in width, and in this particular region is apt to be of considerable width north and south of the lake.

In the maturing of the swamp these disappear in regular succession from one to three. Local conditions bring about a great variation in the relative extent of the several zones. At Malloryville, Tompkins County, N. Y., is a swamp with a very narrow wooded belt, due, no doubt, to the steepness of the shores of the depression; the lake here has been completely filled up, so that we really have a moor surrounded by high ground. The wooded belt is, however, a marked feature of the swamps in Oswego County.

(*To be continued.*)

EDITOR'S TABLE.

THE next issue of the AMERICAN NATURALIST will appear under entirely new management. The magazine has been purchased from the estate of the late Professor Edward D. Cope by a number of gentlemen who are interested in the advancement of the natural sciences, and Dr. Robert P. Bigelow, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, has accepted the post of Editor-in-Chief. He will be assisted by an Editorial Committee and by an able board of Associate Editors,

whose names will be announced later. The general scope of the journal will remain unchanged, and a high standard will be maintained in every department. It is hoped that naturalists in all parts of the country will find the AMERICAN NATURALIST a convenient medium for such of their communications as may be of general interest to others working in the same general field, as well as to specialists in their own lines. Intending contributors are invited to send manuscripts directly to Dr. R. P. Bigelow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass.

THE meeting of the Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations at Minneapolis, in the month just past, cannot fail to be productive of good. It brings out forcibly the endeavors of Americans as a people to ameliorate the conditions of the agricultural classes, reminding us, as it does, that some \$1,890,000 were appropriated by Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, for agriculture. Of this something like \$1,170,000 is for scientific investigations under the direct supervision of the Department of Agriculture, and the rest (\$720,000) for maintaining the experiment stations. The departmental divisions falling within the domains covered by the American Naturalist receive various amounts as follows: Botany, \$23,800; Agrostology, \$18,100; Forestry, \$28,520; Pomology, \$14,500; Physiology and Vegetable Pathology, \$26,500; Biological Survey, \$27,560; Entomology, \$29,500; the Bureau of Animal Industry, \$755,640; and for special investigations in nutrition under the auspices of the office of Experiment Stations, \$15,000.

At this meeting, among the important matters brought to light was the relation between experimental and instructional work as it exists in some of the institutions represented in the Association. The complaint was made that experimental work suffers at the expense of instructional through the overloading of the workers. Many a teacher who should have some time to carry on original work is so crowded with class work that neither energy nor time is left for anything else. The result is that those whom he is supposed to teach are forced back, more or less, into the old parrot methods of learning, lacking as they do that best of incentive to a development of their own powers, namely, the living example of an original worker constantly turning out good work.

Another matter of importance that was touched upon is the indexing of literature relating to agriculture. So far as matter emanating from the experiment stations is concerned, nothing better could be asked for than the *Experiment Station Record*. But there is needed an index

that shall not be restricted to the immediately applicable—one that shall index thoroughly the entire range of the sciences, any portion of which appears at present capable of immediate use in agricultural lines. The development of the agricultural colleges should be broad and healthful and not the reverse.

Finally, there was a proposition, which was referred to the Executive Committee, to endeavor to obtain from Congress for the development of mechanical schools and courses of instruction the same encouragement that has been accorded to agriculture. The proposition is eminently a worthy one, for no class of the people, if one may judge from census returns, needs such encouragement more than this.

RECENT LITERATURE.

The Coccidæ of Ceylon.⁶—The work by Mr. E. E. Green, now to be reviewed, might seem from the title to possess very little general interest. Ceylon is a long way away; and the Coccidæ are apparently considered by most people to be unworthy of serious attention, except with a view to their destruction. Now while the economic side of Coccidology is highly important, it is maintained that the subject possesses also a strong Darwinian interest, and that the perusal of such a work as Mr. Green's will—or should—greatly profit any naturalist who interests himself in general biological problems. We have in these Coccidæ a strictly Homopterous type, but so modified that the family falls outside most of the current definitions—not only of Homoptera, but of Insecta! Combined with a remarkable reduction and even loss of parts, is the development of new characters of the most diverse kind to meet the several needs of the insects. We have here a case in which the most extraordinary modification has taken place, without masking the real affinities of the group; and everything is made so clear by Mr. Green's descriptions and beautiful colored plates, that no intelligent person could fail to understand the exact condition of affairs.

Not only should the work be examined by naturalists, but it should be shown to students of biology in our colleges. It ought to encourage all those who aspire to do original work in biological science. For

⁶ The Coccidæ of Ceylon, by E. Ernest Green, F. E. S., Part 1. With 33 Plates. London, Dulaw & Co., 1896.